

## KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, October 27, 2016  
Administration Building - Room 310

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Meeting called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chair James R. Saalfeld.

Present: Commissioners Antor, Bolter, Brieve, Chivis, Bulkowski, Hennessy, Jones, Kallman, Koorndyk, Mast, Morgan, Ponstein, Shroll, Stek, Talen, Vander Molen, Vonk, Voorhees, Chair Saalfeld - 19.

Absent: None.

Invocation: Commissioner Morgan introduced Sheriff Chaplain Marcia Shultz, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Edmore, who gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### Experience Grand Rapids Annual Update

Doug Small, President, and Janet Korn, Senior Vice President, gave the annual report (copy of which is on file in the Office of the County Clerk). Convention sales in 2016 include 338 groups booked; \$197,000,000 in hotel room revenue; and a 70 percent occupancy rate through October. More information can be found at [www.experienceGR.com](http://www.experienceGR.com).

#### West Michigan Sports Commission (WMSC) Annual Update

Mike Guswiler, President, gave the annual update (copy of which is on file in the Office of the County Clerk). Over the past eight years, the WMSC has booked or assisted with 568 events. It will host the State Games of America in August 2017, at which 12,000 athletes will participate in 48 sports. More information can be found at [www.westmisports.com](http://www.westmisports.com).

#### Quality Service Employee Award (Third Quarter)

Darius Quinn, Employee Relations and Diversity Manager, and Chair Saalfeld acknowledged Charles "Charlie" Dubridge, a Facilities Management employee (63<sup>rd</sup> District Court) who was nominated by Judge Sara Smolenski as the Quality Service Employee of the Third Quarter. Judge Smolenski enumerated the qualities that make Charlie deserving of the award.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kate Meyer, Kent County Parks Foundation, gave a brief update. This year's fundraiser, *Something's Grilling*, raised \$63,000 each for Millennium Park and the general operating expenses of the Foundation. In early 2017, the Parks Foundation will give its annual update to the Board under Special Order of Business.

(Note: The following 21 individuals spoke on the Friend of the Court's bench warrant initiative.)

2. Pastor Jerry Bishop, 1050 Fisk SE, Grand Rapids (Lifequest Ministries) - Is against the

deployment of law enforcement to make arrests on outstanding bench warrants and advocates the termination of the program.

3. Victor Williams (Grand Rapids Hip Hop Coalition and GR Solid) – Would like the Board to reconsider the deployment of law enforcement to make bench warrant arrests. Does not want the interaction to escalate and would like the Friend of the Court to build community relationships.
4. Raynard Ross, 3810 Kingsway Court SE, Grand Rapids - Believes that parents should pay child support, but is concerned with the new law enforcement program. Please explore alternative methods thereby reducing interaction with law enforcement.
5. Stephen Smith, 315 Commerce, Grand Rapids - The new policy is counterproductive. He would rather see job training instead of lock up. They cannot pay arrearages if they cannot work. Need better communication with the court.
6. Reverend Bryan Blakely, 226 Ann Street NE, Grand Rapids – He worked with the former FOC Director, Terry Novakoski, and they organized community-based events to set up payment plans, etc. Why regress back to arrests?
7. Samuel Jones, 83 Brookmeadow North Lane, Grandville – Fathers should pay so that no families are left behind, but taking them out of the home is not good. He would rather see funds go toward a “peace keeping force” to empower and educate fathers to get jobs and correct negative behaviors.
8. Chris Sain, Vice President Grand Rapids NAACP - Pastor Bishop of Lifequest Ministries has a program to get men to pay arrearages, which is safer than the new FOC approach.
9. Jase Mondy, 1437 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids – Was arrested twice in one month for arrearages because records were not updated and, as a result, lost his job. He believes that both resources and dollars can be spent better. Wants to see Grand Rapids flourish for all families.
10. Brandon Kimball, 2835 West SW, Wyoming – The new program does not consider all situations. Fathers need to be present in their families’ lives.
11. Cory Ward, 1615 Giddings SE, Grand Rapids – The cost of the cops outweighs the collections. The system is broken. Sometimes a person does not know that they are being charged. We need to rethink the program or it will cause more tension, debt, etc.
12. Joe Jones, 2528 Orchard View Drive NE, Grand Rapids – We need to take a more innovative and empowering approach. The Board should work with the Sheriff Department and the Friend of the Court to come up with a better approach. Please work with Reverend Bishop and Lifequest Ministries.

13. Ron Fudge, 7076 Sovereign Drive, Grand Rapids – Applauds the job that the Board of Commissioners does. He is not in arrears, but had a bad experience with Friend of the Court and wants a better program for others.

14. George Ward, 1940 Union SE, Grand Rapids – Cares about the community and this initiative is not “community.” Everyone wants accountability, but this approach is hostile and will be received that way. Let us come together to create a better idea and work with Reverend Bishop.

15. Jermone Glenn, Lead Pastor, Revolution Culture Movement – Let’s connect and do something different while holding those accountable. He wants to continue the conversation on this issue.

16. William Bryant, 822 Baxter SE, Grand Rapids – When a person is removed from their home there is a problem. With two armed police arresting people, it may not end well in all cases. Please reexamine this program.

17. Jathan Austin, 694 Greenbrier Drive SE, Grand Rapids (Lead Pastor, One Church Empowerment Center) – Was arrested for arrearages years ago when a college student. There are other options to consider besides taking fathers out of homes, which causes them to fall further behind.

18. Darrin Lucas, 4005 Woodland Creek Drive SE, Grand Rapids – He was fired from a new job when he took time off to attend a show cause hearing. He was unemployed for a year. Please revisit the program and use a non-profit.

19. Cle Jackson, President, Grand Rapids NAACP – Witnessed hope and authenticity today. He hopes that the Board of Commissioners will seriously consider the community and resolve the issue.

20. Eric Baldwin, 715 Fuller SE, Grand Rapids - Lifequest held an amnesty day with law enforcement in August collecting \$6,000 and clearing 165 bench warrants. It is a traumatic experience for children to see a father arrested. He would like to see more amnesty programs.

21. Mike Mondy, 1944 Fourth Street NW, Grand Rapids – Let’s elevate the City. Collectively, we can make this work.

22. Richard Major, 315 Commerce SW, Grand Rapids – This program is more damaging than helpful. Please reconsider and take a different approach.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the Minutes of October 13, 2016, Meeting

b) October 4, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting  
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)

c) Resolutions:

10-27-16-91 – 2016 APPORTIONMENT REPORT / BUREAU OF EQUALIZATION

WHEREAS, the Finance and Physical Resources Committee has reviewed the supporting documents setting forth the necessary millage required by the several taxing jurisdictions in the County of Kent, townships, local school districts, intermediate school districts and community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the committee has further examined the dollar requirements necessary to fund the assessments for drains and rejected taxes and find them in proper order; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby certify the millage rates of these governmental jurisdictions and directs that the millage rates of the County of Kent, townships, local school districts, intermediate school districts and community colleges, and the dollar amounts for the drains and rejected taxes be spread on the respective township and city rolls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize and direct the Chair and the Clerk of the Board to sign the millage rate certificates.

Motion by Commissioner Morgan, seconded by Commissioner Shroll, that the Consent Agenda items be approved.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Antor, Bolter, Brieve, Bulkowski, Chivis, Hennessy, Jones, Kallman, Koorndyk, Mast, Morgan, Ponstein, Shroll, Stek, Vander Molen, Vonk, Voorhees, Chair Saalfeld – 18.

Nays: 0.

Absent from the room: Talen - 1

RESOLUTIONS

10-27-16-92 – EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATOR / CONTROLLER / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners, on February 25, 1999, appointed Daryl Delabbio as County Administrator/Controller; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative and Human Resources Committee, pursuant to Resolution 2-25-99-20, developed and recommended approval of the Employment Agreement by and between the Board of Commissioners and Mr. Delabbio; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative and Human Resources Committee has developed proposed changes to said Employment Agreement and is recommending that the Board of Commissioners approve those changes; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Legislative and Human Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Employment Agreement by and between the Kent County Board of Commissioners and Daryl Delabbio effective for the period January 1, 2017, through June 30, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioners, or Vice-Chair in his absence, is authorized to sign the Employment Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the agreement need not be included in the minutes on file with the County Clerk.

Motion by Commissioner Mast, seconded by Commissioner Shroll, that the resolution be adopted.  
Motion carried:

Yeas: Antor, Bolter, Brieve, Bulkowski, Chivis, Hennessy, Jones, Kallman, Koorndyk, Mast, Morgan, Ponstein, Shroll, Stek, Talen, Vander Molen, Vonk, Voorhees, Chair Saalfeld – 19.

Nays: 0.

10-27-16-93 – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD APPOINTMENT – JERRY KOOIMAN / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, citizen interest in serving on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Board was solicited in August/September as a part of the annual solicitation of citizens' interest in serving on the various appointed bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Appointments Subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Shana Shroll (Chair), Carol Hennessey, and Ted Vonk reviewed the resumes received. The interview team is recommending Jerry Kooiman for reappointment to the DHHS Board; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Legislative and Human Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Jerry Kooiman to the DHHS Board for a three-year term of November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Koorndyk, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried by voice vote.

10-27-16-94 – AMENDMENT TO THE 2015-16 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND BUDGETING  
CONTRACT (CPBC) / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Health Department has received notice from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) that additional grant funds are available through the CPBC agreement for the Medicaid Outreach program; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department has partnered with Health Net of West Michigan and the Heart of West Michigan United Way to expand Medicaid Outreach services through several community agencies; and

WHEREAS, the seven additional partners are The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Arbor Circle Corporation, Family Outreach Center, The Salvation Army Turning Point Program, Senior Neighbors, Thresholds, and the Asthma Network of West Michigan. The two original partners are Health Net of West Michigan and First Steps Kent; and

WHEREAS, these agencies assist clients with their application for Medicaid benefits. They also provide information to clients about the many different Michigan Medicaid programs, such as well-child visits, immunizations and lead testing, with the goal of connecting them to appropriate services. Translation services are provided, if needed. These services are provided to clients that the Health Department does not typically see; and

WHEREAS, MDHHS has provided \$375,000 in additional funding to expand these services, and the Heart of West Michigan United Way has agreed to provide the additional \$375,000 in match dollars that are required; and

WHEREAS, the \$750,000 in additional funding was used to contract with these agencies to provide additional services that were not originally offered; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts and appropriates \$750,000 in additional funding to the 2015-16 Health Fund budget; \$375,000 from the MDHHS; \$375,000 from the Heart of West Michigan United Way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair is authorized to execute the grant agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Ponstein, seconded by Commissioner Shroll, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried by voice vote.

10-27-16-95 – SPECTRUM HEALTH FOUNDATION – HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION – STRONG BEGINNINGS PROGRAM FOR 2016-17 / HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Strong Beginnings is a home visiting program that uses Community Health Workers to work alongside nurses and social workers in the Maternal and Infant Health Program (MIHP) to provide services that do not require the skill or expertise of a nurse or social worker; and

WHEREAS, the Strong Beginnings program goals are to:

- a) improve birth outcomes and decrease the rate of infant mortality
- b) reduce barriers to care for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers through community outreach, case management, and education
- c) improve care for pregnant women through improved screening and coordination; and
- d) engage the community to advocate for culturally competent care; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department provides outreach, support, and case management services to high risk women who live in Kent County and are pregnant or the mother of a child 0-2 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the agreement period for the Spectrum Health Foundation contract is November 1, 2016, through October 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, in the event that grant funding is eliminated or decreased, the positions funded by this grant will be eliminated unless continued funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants, Contracts, and Donations; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Health Department's Spectrum Health Foundation contract for 2016-17, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board accepts and appropriates \$238,797 to the 2016-17 Health Fund budget; \$182,195 from Spectrum Health Foundation, \$56,602 included in the County General Fund budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair is authorized to execute the grant agreement and approve grant extensions and changes, within 15 percent of the original award.

Motion by Commissioner Brieve, seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried by voice vote.

**10-27-16-96 – ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE IDEMA FOUNDATION GRANT TO COMPLETE WETLANDS  
PHASE OF MEADOWS PROJECT / PARKS**

WHEREAS, the long term plans for the Meadows at Millennium Park include restoring wetlands at the south end of the project area by transforming a former gravel pit to expand and naturalize a lake, and creating trail access and observation points; and

WHEREAS, the Bill and Bea Idema Foundation has generously awarded the Parks Department a \$400,000 grant to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the grant to create a Meadows Wetland Restoration Project in the 2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board accepts and appropriates \$400,000 from the Bill and Bea Idema Foundation to the project.

Motion by Commissioner Chivis, seconded by Commissioner Mast, that the resolution be adopted.  
Motion carried by voice vote.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Ann Tyson, 3921 S. Rosebud Drive, Kentwood – Commissioner Antor will be honored on November 11, 5:00 p.m., at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Pantlind Ballroom, for his work with veterans.

#### REPORTS

##### Gerald R. Ford International Airport

Commissioner Morgan: The groundbreaking for the new viewing area at the airport was held this week. This is a partnership between the Airport and the Cascade Community Foundation.

##### Fire Commission

Commissioner Jones: The Fire Commission met on October 20 in Courtland Township to view the new fire truck, a great addition to their fire department.

##### Lead Task Force

Commissioner Shroll: The Lead Task Force met on Tuesday. The members reviewed its charge, reviewed schedules and appointed a subcommittee. The Lead Task Force's next meeting will be in January and the subcommittee will meet next month.

##### Land Bank Review Subcommittee

Commissioner Bolter: The Land Bank Review Subcommittee scheduled for today is canceled.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### Introduction

Commissioner Voorhees: He introduced Lindsey Delozier who appears as the guitarist in the Zoo/Museum ballot question commercial. She came to Grand Rapids with her brother, who was an entrant in the ArtPrize, and she liked the area so much she moved here.

##### Public Comment – FOC Bench Warrant Initiative

Commissioner Talen: He was impressed by the individuals who spoke during Public Comment today and appreciated the organization and articulation. This group of individuals came together



to offer to work together for a solution.

Commissioner Bulkowski: He looks forward to this Board's response to the offer of working together for a solution to the bench warrant initiative. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mosaic Film Experience will be held next week and he will forward more information to Commissioners. He was pleased to see in the Experience Grand Rapids presentation that they are moving forward on improving diversity.

Commissioner Koorndyk: Appreciates what the 21 citizens said during Public Comment on the FOC bench warrant initiative. That was one of the biggest groups of people ever to address this Commission. He looks forward to a resolution on this issue.

Commissioner Mast: Those who spoke during Public Comment offer us a challenge to find a better way. This is an opportunity for us to show our state and nation how we in Kent County do it better.

#### Congratulations

Commissioner Morgan: Congratulated Commissioner Antor on his award for his work with veterans.

#### Public Comment and 9-1-1 Fee Collections

Commissioner Ponstein: Appreciates the community representatives who appeared today to give the Board a different perspective on the FOC bench warrant program. There were non-profits, churches, community leaders who came forward with examples and, hopefully, we can come to a resolution that is a win win for the whole county.

Also, he sent an article via email to Commissioners email on counties in Pennsylvania that believe that they are not getting all of the 9-1-1 fees from the utilities and so they are starting to sue the telecoms. This might be an avenue that Kent County needs to explore. If our legislature cannot pass a law to allow us to audit the books, then we may need to take things in our own hands.

Commissioner Shroll: It is always a joy to see so much citizen participation. We want to make sure that we are hearing the needs and concerns from the community. Commissioners did receive a lot of documentation in their email last night and inbox this morning about what work has been done on the FOC bench warrant initiative and all are encouraged to read through it as this information will be useful as we move forward.

#### Chair Comments

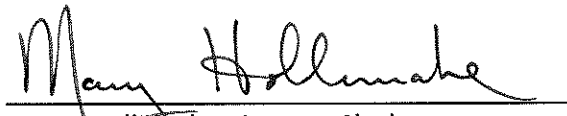
Chair Saalfeld: 1) 9-1-1 Fee Lawsuit - he has asked Corporate Counsel Dempsey to get copies of the pleadings that were filed in that case. This is one of our legislative priorities. It might take the court, and not the legislature, to make reform happen in this area.

2) FOC Bench Warrant Initiative – Appreciated the comments made today. This is a complex issue in the following ways: The money comes from the federal and state government and is not out of our General Fund. This is a program that is carried out by multiple other counties in the State, so it is not unique to Kent County. The program is under the jurisdiction of the Friend of the Court (the Circuit Court) and the enforcement is under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff Department (neither of which, technically, we oversee). Chair Saalfeld and Administrator Delabbio will bring this issue up at the quarterly meeting with the Chief Circuit Court Judge tomorrow. The program is up for review early 2017. He attended community meetings held by City Commissioners Senita Lenear and Joe Jones along with Administrator Delabbio, Friend of the Court, the Court, and several of the stakeholders. He thought that progress was being made, but Pastor Bishop pulled out of the meetings. There are a lot of moving parts and more that we need to hear to fully understand the issue. After the meeting with the judges tomorrow, he will follow up with the Board on the next steps.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Morgan moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, November 3, 2016, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Voorhees. Motion carried.

  
James R. Saalfeld, Chair

  
Mary Hollinake, County Clerk